

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1245

FODAG

FROM ANDRE SURENA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNWFC, OCON

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. WORKING GROUP (WG) CONCLUDED WORK ON DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE EARLY SATURDAY A.M. JANUARY 24. TEXT OF RULES REFERS TO HEAD OF WFC SECRETARIAT AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND CONTAINS PROVISION ON APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. BOTH OF LATTER ARE FOOTNOTED IN DRAFT RULES AS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA). REPORT OF WG ALSO CONTAINS WG RECOMMENDED DRAFT RESOLUTION TO WFC WHEREBY WFC WOULD REQUEST GA TO APPROVE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TITLE AND PROVISIONS DEALING WITH APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. REPORT MAKES CLEAR THESE PROVISIONS IN RULES, THOUGH THEY MAY BE ADOPTED BY WFC, WILL HAVE NO LEGAL EFFECT UNTIL APPROVED BY GA. UN LEGAL REP (SZASZ) CONCURRED IN THIS FORMULA. GUINEA AND GABON OBJECTED TO THE WG PROPOSING A DRAFT RESOLUTION TO THE WFC, AND REJECTED THE ARGUMENT THAT WG OR WFC NEEDED GA APPROVAL FOR ANY PROVISIONS IN WFC RULES. USDEL, ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN WG, INDICATED RESULT WAS NOT WHAT WE CONSIDERED MOST APPROPRIATE, BUT WAS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH THIS, AND OTHER COMPROMISES, IN ATTEMPT DEVELOP PACKAGE WHICH WFC WOULD

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BE ABLE TO ADOPT WITH MINIMUM (AND PROBABLY NO) DISCUSSION.

2. FAO: PROVISIONS FINALLY AGREED WERE SIGNIFICANTLY WATERED DOWN, SOT THAT MOST CONSEQUENTIAL ONE IS THAT FAO CONFERENCE OR COUNCIL, AS WELL AS OTHER UN AGENCIES CONCERNED, MAY SUBMIT ITEMS FOR WFC PROVISIONAL AGENDA.

3. REPORT WILL CONTAIN SOME RESERVATIONS BY PARTICIPATING STATES. GABON DEL (LOUIS LAPEBY), DIFFICULT AS USUAL, HAS ANNEXTED A "DECLARATION" WHICH CONTAINS HIS PARTICULAR (AND IN GENERAL INCORRECT) LEGAL PERSPECTIVE ON WG WORK. ALSO GUINEA RESERVED ON THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RULE BECAUSE, INTER ALIA, HE WAS DISSATISFIED WITH REQUIRING THE UN SYG MERELY TO CONSULT WITH THE FAO DG ON THE APPOINTMENT. HE FELT FAO DG FULL CONCURRENCE WAS CALLED FOR. US GERMANY (FRG) AND AUSTRALIA RESERVED ON NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT RULE. USSR HAD A NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS, MOST OF WHICH APPEARED TO RESULT FROM ABSENCE OF A RUSSIAN TEXT.

4. DUE TO LATENESS OF CONCLUSION OF WORK, WG WAS NOT ABLE TO REVIEW A CONSOLIDATED TEXT OF A DRAFT REPORT. HOWEVER, TEXT, AS WELL AS IT CAN BE DISCERNED, APPEARS TO SATISFY, IN GENERAL, WG PORTIONS.

5. SINCERE ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE REASONABLE COMPROMISE WERE MADE BY ALL DELS, EXCEPT GUINEA AND GABON. DELS OF YUGOSLAVIA, PAKISTAN, KENYA, AND MEXICO MADE CONTINUING EFFORTS TO MODERATE, WHERE NECESSARY, G-77 PROPOSALS. SUBSTITUTE MEXICAN CHAIRMAN, WLATER ASTIE BURGOS (IN THE ABSENCE OF HIS CHIEF, AMBASSADOR ARMENDARIZ), CONSTANTLY LABORED TO KEEP THE WG ON TRACK, AND TO DO SO, OCCASINGALLY AND SKILLFULLY RAN ROUGHSHOD OVER GUINEA AND GABON DELS. MEMBER OF UN LEGAL OFFICE, PAUL SZASZ, HELPFUL IN LAST MEETING OF WG, CONTINUED TO PROVIDE HIGHLY COMPETENT AND OFTEN HELPFUL INTERVENTIONS. AS A COUNTERBALANCE TO GABON MISINTERPRETATION OF LEGAL SITUATION, U.S. DEL REQUESTED THAT SZASZ' LEGAL OPINION ON NEED FOR GA APPROVAL OF RELVANT RULES BE PART OF WG REPORT.

6. COMMENT: IT WAS SOON APPARENT THAT G-77 MEMBERS HAD TIRED OF GABON OBSTRUCTIONISM AND GUINEA MANUEVERING. EARLY IN MEETING, CHAIRMAN OFTEN IGNORED GABON-GUINEA OBJECTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS WHEN THEY WERE SOLE OBSTACLES TO AGREEMENT. THIS DID NOT LESSEN LATTER DEL'S ENTHUSIASM FOR COMPLICATIONS, BUT DID PERMIT WG TO ADVANCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, SLOWLY. GABON DEL (WHO PROBABLY TOOK PSITION HE DID ONLY BECAUSE OF UNMITIGATED NEED TO CHANGE ALL PROVISIONS TO SUIT HIS PERSONAL TASTE) FINALLY ERUPTED INTO A "DECLARATION" AND INDICATED HIS POINTS WOULD BE RAISED IN THE WFC. GUINEA DEL (WHO APPEARED TO BE IN FAO DB SOUMA'S POCKET), ALSO STATED HE WULD RAISE HIS CRITICISMS OF RULES OF WFC. SOVIETS AND GERMANS HAD DISAGREEMENT ON REFERENCE TO EEC (AS "GROUPINGS" OF STATES...) IN RULES, AND SOVIETS RESERVED TO TURLE IN QUESTION, INDICATING

HIS DEL WILL SPEAK TO THIS IN WFC. US DEL ATTEMPTED TO DISCOURAGE SUCH RESERVATIONS ON GROUNDS THAT IF WFC IS TO SUCCEED, WE SHOULD PRESENT IT WITH A COMPLETE PACKAGE WHICH IT WILL HAVE NO NEED TO DEBATE WHETHER LATTER OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN MET REMAINS UNCLEAR, IN SPITE OF INDICATONS SOME DELS WILL WISH DISCUSS RULES ON WFC. GUINEA AND GABON OBJECTIONS ARE ESSENTIALLY WITHOUT MERIT. (THOUGH SINCE IT IS POSSIBLE THEY WILL BE RAISED, PRESENCE OF UN LEGAL COUNSEL AT NEXT PREP MEETING AND NEXT WFC SESSION IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SOVIET-FRG FIGHT WAS APPARENTLY MORE RELAXED TO QUESTION OF ROLES OF EEC AND CEMA (COUNCIL ON NEUTAL EC-ONOMIC ASSISTANCE) TO BE EXAMINED IN UPCOMING (28 JANUARY) IFAD MEETING, AND UNWILLINGNESS SOVDEL TO AGREE IN WG TO LANGUAGE HIS DEL MIGHT OPPOSE FOR IFAD PURPOSES. RESULTS IFAD MEETING WHOULD PROVIDE GUIDANCE AS TO WHETHER THIS WILL REMAIN ISSUE FOR WFC. VOLPE

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